(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
5 February 2004 (05.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/011833 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: F16K 11/044, 31/06

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2003/003209

(22) International Filing Date: 30 July 2003 (30.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0217641.0 30 July 2002 (30.07.2002) GB

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **LOTUS CARS LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Hethel, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8EZ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **EDMOND, George** [GB/GB]; 8 Pym Close, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0QP (GB). **KENCHINGTON, Steven** [GB/GB]; 1 Old Hall Close, Ashwell Thorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR16 1EY (GB). **KUDEROVITCH, Simon, Paul** [GB/GB]; 12 Wright Drive, Scarning, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 2TS (GB).

(74) Agents: **PLUCKROSE, Anthony, William** et al.; Boult Wade Tennant, Verulam Gardens, 70 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BT (GB).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,

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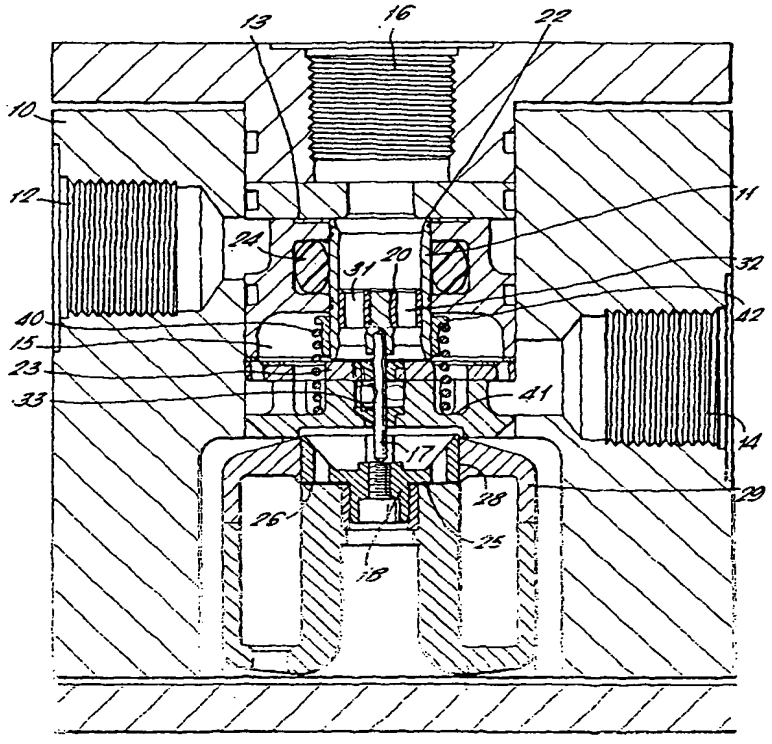
(54) Title: CONTROL VALVE FOR CONTROLLING FLOW OF HYDRAULIC FLUID



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a control valve for controlling flow of hydraulic fluid. The control valve comprises: a valve housing (10); a sleeve (11) slidable in a valve chamber in the valve housing (10); a first fluid conduit (12) for connecting the valve chamber to a source of pressurised hydraulic fluid; a second fluid conduit (14) for connecting the valve chamber to a fluid return for returning hydraulic fluid to a reservoir; and a third fluid conduit (16) for connecting the valve chamber to deliver hydraulic fluid to and receive hydraulic fluid from apparatus which uses the hydraulic fluid flow controlled by the control valve. The sleeve (11) is a tubular sleeve having a tubular passage therethrough. The valve housing has a pair of spaced apart valve seat surfaces (22, 23), a first valve seat surface (22) which is engageable by a first end of the tubular sleeve (11) and a second valve seat surface (23) which is engageable by a second end of the tubular sleeve (11). The third fluid conduit (16) opens on to the valve chamber by way of a port which is surrounded by the first valve seat surface (22).

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